

MERCIAN MARAUDERS 2025 PROGRAMME



Providing performance level opportunities for u13s across the Midlands



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All About Mercian Marauders



What is Mercian Marauders?

Mercian Marauders is an age group representative team, covering the Midlands which enters the fantastic annual UK Lions Tournament hosted at Nottingham Hockey Centre. The Mercian Marauders fields Boys u13s and Girls u13s teams, and in 2025 we will be entering two teams in each, one into the Championship competition and one into the Trophy. The programme then aims to provide further opportunities for people to be involved in the future with u14s and u16s teams playing in the Mercia Cup at Malvern College in the summer.

What is the UK Lions Tournament?

The UK Lions tournament is an annual tournament held at Nottingham Hockey Centre in June (Boys) and July (Girls). The tournament is held over the weekend, starting on Friday evening and finishing on Sunday afternoon. Each team plays 5 or 6 matches over the tournament against other representative teams from across the UK, and stays on campus at the University of Nottingham. From this, squads are selected for the UK Lions teams. This is not an official England Hockey tournament and has no link to the England Hockey Talent System.

Why get involved with the Mercian Marauders?

Mercian Marauders is a brilliant opportunity to sample performance level hockey at a young age and play with some of the best players at your age group. All players receive high quality coaching from our experienced and professional coaching team, whilst the focus of the whole programme is on developing the person as well as the hockey player. The UK Lions tournament provides a brilliant three-day experience for all participants and the whole programme allows you to build close friendships through hockey, whilst improving as a player.

What do our previous players say?

Matthew Curtis, Mercian Marauders, 2022

“Being selected to trial, train and play alongside the best young players, and to represent the Mercian Marauders in a national competition was the pinnacle of my Under 13s hockey journey. The coaching staff stretched me and helped me become a better player, I learned a lot about myself and being in a team, and I made good friends who I still play with.”

Sienna Rowe, Mercian Marauders, 2023

“Marauders was a great experience that helped me to understand what a higher level of hockey is like, improving my skills and teamwork on the pitch and time management off the pitch. It has allowed me to form new bonds with friends and make many memories.”



Mercian Marauders in 2025



Stage 1: Sign up to get involved

The 2025 programme is open to any Boys or Girls u13s aspiring towards performance level hockey. To get involved with the Mercian Marauders, receive all information about the programme and to attend the trials sessions, please complete this form <https://forms.gle/tyUPWzLULieyzzXk7> or email mercianmaraudershockey@gmail.com by Tuesday 1st April 2025.

Stage 2: The Trials Process

Trials will be held in Spring 2025 for the Mercian Marauders. There will be three trials sessions for each of the Boys and Girls, held at different venues across the Midlands on the dates below. Players must attend one of these sessions to be considered for selection, and players are encouraged to attend all three. Attending multiple trials increases the chance of selection. These will be full day sessions, costing c. £30 per day, where they will receive high quality coaching.

Session	Boys	Girls
Trial #1 (Ratcliffe College)	Wednesday 16th April	Tuesday 15th April
Trial #2 (Wrekin College)	Saturday 3rd May	Saturday 26th April
Trial #3 (Chase Park, Cannock)	Sunday 11th May	Saturday 10th May

The coaching team will then select 40 players for each gender. This will consist of 18 players for the Championship Squad and 18 for the Trophy Squad, as well as 4 non-playing reserves who will be invited to the training programme.

Stage 3: The Training Programme & Costs

Those players selected for the Mercian Marauders squads will be invited to a series of training sessions and pre-tournament friendlies to prepare for the UK Lions tournament. Dates and venues are as follows. Note, it is expected that players attend as many of these sessions as possible.

At this point, players will be asked to pay a Mercian Marauders Membership Fee which will cover all costs of the UK

Boys	Girls
Saturday 17th May (Abbotsholme School)	Sunday 18th May (Trentham Academy)
Sunday 25th May (Shadowbrook, Hampton)	Tuesday 27th May (Shadowbrook, Hampton)
Thursday 29th May (Trentham Academy)	Sunday 8th June (Abbotsholme School)
Saturday 7th June (Matches v North East & Tensworth @ Ben Rhydding)	Saturday 28th June (Matches v North East & Tensworth @ TBC)
Sunday 15th June (Telford Hockey Club)	Saturday 5th July (Telford Hockey Club)

Lions Tournament, all training, fixtures and the provision of kit. It is anticipated that this will cost roughly **£400** and this will be kept as low as possible. Please note this whole programme is run on a non-profit basis, all administration is completed by volunteers and we ensure the provision of high quality coaches for each team.

Stage 4: The UK Lions Tournament

The programme works towards the UK Lions Tournaments. Dates for the 2024 tournaments are as follows:

Boys: Friday 20th June - Sunday 22nd June

Girls: Friday 11th July - Sunday 13th July

Following the programme we will look to create other opportunities for the players to connect and play together in the future. For example we field u14s & u16s Mercian Marauders teams at the Mercia Cup.

The Mercian Marauders Values



RESPECT

OPTIMISM

AMBITION

RESILIENCE

Values are at the heart of what we do and they help to shape our culture which is so crucial to the Mercian Marauders programme. As well as developing all of the Mercian Marauders as hockey players, we are committed to developing them as young people prepared to thrive in wider society.

The Mercian Marauders in 2024

In 2024, the Mercian Marauders programme was bigger than ever before. Roughly 250 players signed up for the programme and we fielded four teams at the UK Lions Tournaments. The Girls Championship side were runners up, whilst the Boys Championship side finished in fifth place.

Both the Boys and Girls Trophy sides won their respective tournaments.

In the summer, we took several sides to Malvern College to play in the highly competitive Mercia Cup. The Boys u16s became Champions, the Girls u14s were runners up and the Boys u14s finished in third place. This provided more opportunity than ever before to represent Marauders.

Sponsor the Mercian Marauders

Would you like to become a sponsor of the Mercian Marauders? This is a fantastic opportunity to be a part of and support this programme. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or finding out more, then please email mercianmaraudershockey@gmail.com



Join the Mercian Marauders



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